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*The common sense paper
of record on campus.*

Future provost, law school dean and VP of student activities still unknown

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

On Tuesday, September 23, President Taylor Reveley announced to the student body that Provost P. Geoff Feiss will retire from his position at the conclusion of the academic year in spring 2009. In an e-mail sent out to students on that day, Mr. Reveley remarked: "Geoff has made a very significant difference for the better at William & Mary, playing a leading role in shaping its academic life... He has provided vital aid and comfort to me during the last seven months. We have worked together seamlessly for the good of the university and will continue to do so this academic year."



File Photo

FEISS

Mr. Feiss has served in the administrative role of provost, the fourth in the College's history, since 2003, and was previously dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. During his tenure, the provost has been one of the more reserved top administrators at the College, primarily overseeing the academic direction of the College while having limited interactions with the student body. One of the more visible of these interactions was his participation in the spring 2008 student and faculty strike over the contract non-renewal of then-President Gene Nichol.

In addition to overseeing the College's six administrative vice presidents, Mr. Feiss has directed the structure of academics, research and institutions at the university. In his capacity as provost, Mr. Feiss spearheaded a number of influential changes to the College's academic and administrative structure. Some of these transitions included the launch of the Gateway Program for financial aid, the introduction of the student laptop requirement and the removal of the Tribe's feathered logo. Under the previous College president, Provost Feiss was given expanded administrative responsibility, assuming duties directly associated with the day-to-day operations of the College.

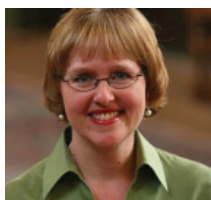
In the immediate future, the provost's retirement means the beginning of another national search for replacements for top administrative positions. In the same e-mail announcing Mr. Feiss' retirement, Mr. Reveley also stated, "A committee

to search nationally for our next provost will be in place very soon, with a view to finishing next spring." Sociology Professor Kate Slevin and Business Professor Ron Sims will co-chair this national search.

The search comes on the heels of a recently restructured committee to find a replacement vice president for student affairs, presently held on an interim basis by Ginger Ambler. Following the campus-wide announcement of the provost's retirement last week, *The Informer* learned that President Reveley directed the resumption of the student affairs search, which has not made any advances since the departure of President Nichol. Government Professor Clay Clemens will chair the search, as originally structured by Mr. Nichol upon Sam Sadler's retirement last spring.

When contacted on September 18, Mr. Clemens remarked, "All that happened last spring was that President Nichol asked me to chair a committee, and things got no further than that before his departure... I have no idea about the current administration's plans for the position."

The William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law is also conducting a national search to find a new dean, which is presently being held on an interim basis by Law Professor Lynda L. Butler. Mr. Reveley vacated his position as dean last February in order to serve as interim president at the behest of the Board of Visitors. Now, a search for a new law school dean is also



File Photo

AMBLER

underway, and is being chaired by Vice Dean and Professor of Law Eric Kades. The individual selected for this position would begin work as dean next July for the 2009-2010 academic year.

In all, there are three nationwide searches being conducted to fill top administrative roles at the College. In the past decade, searches for vice presidential replacements have largely been national in scope, but this year stands out as being a time of great transition at the College due to the need for the concurrent replacement of many top administrative positions. The cost associated with these searches is claimed as reasonable by the College administration, as the need to hire search firms was eliminated by faculty decision making.



Jon San

TODAY visit yields high student turnout, signs galore

Colonial love: Al Roker and the Today Show visited Colonial Williamsburg on September 24th and chatted with a number of re-enactors including Thomas Jefferson.

See page nine for inside coverage of TODAY show visit.

New SA freshmen reps discuss their future roles

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

The tradition of faux abductions of new freshman Student Assembly executive officers and senators continued this academic year, as the sitting senators tried to dupe the new freshman representatives by "accusing" them of bogus charges. They were then lead individually to a victory celebration at the Library Tavern where they conversed with their new colleagues, enjoyed some *bors d'oeuvres* and shared their first experiences with the standing senators.

The senators talked about what they wanted to accomplish this year. Betty Jeanne Manning ('12) related her experiences from high school: once, "a student created a Web site about the school and included a 'Rate-My-Professors-esque' page and was persecuted by the administration for doing so... It was upsetting to see

that happening to someone for performing a service for the school." She said that student government here allows senators to do something, whereas before "class officers were completely powerless to do anything." Later she mentioned the "abduction," and recalled how when she "got into the car there was a huge box of condoms with beer... I could hear my dad's voice in my head saying, 'You got into a car with how many boys and a case of beer!'"

Ben Battaglia ('12) was not duped by his fellow senators. Sen. Matt Pinsker suggested that "perhaps it's a good thing he can't be fooled." Mr. Battaglia described himself as "over involved in high school," and said he had "lots of good experiences with student government." At a recent Senate meeting, he "observed what a

FRESHMEN ELECTIONS
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Student Assembly Freshmen Elections Results 2008

President Kobie Gordon	Secretary Stephanie McGuire	Senator Betty Jeanne Manning
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movement
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Winning the veepstakes

Slawter discusses the SA and her new position

Nick Fitzgerald
Editor in Chief (VIO)

On Septemer 23, Kristin Slawter ('09) was unanimously approved by the Student Assembly Senate in a 17-0 vote to take over the duties of vice president in the SA Executive. President Valerie Hopkins ('09), along with the vetting committee she had forged, had chosen Ms. Slawter from among over 40 applicants, all of whom were vying for a position which opened up after the sudden resignation of former Vice President Zach Pilchen ('09).

At the Senate meeting that evening, Ms. Slawter's selection was announced, and Ms. Hopkins implored the Senate to approve her nominee. "She's a quick learner, and has completely immersed herself in the more nitty-gritty aspects of the position, who's who in the city and the SA. ... I urge you to confirm her tonight so we can start moving forward," she said.

The vote passed, and the next day Ms. Slawter sat down with *The Informer* to discuss her upcoming agenda, her thoughts on the SA and President Reveley, among other things.

The Virginia Informer: What have your accomplishments been up

to this point? While filling out the application, what experience did you draw on and what made you feel that you were qualified for the position?

Vice President Slawter: I really drew on my knowledge of the Student Assembly as an organization. By being involved [as vice president of advocacy for the class of 2009] I had a knowledge that enabled me to hit the ground running. Most of what I talked about in the application was my experiences on Student Alumni Council, which I joined freshman year. I was the alumni relations chair during my junior year – as chair I have five committees that work under me and we have an executive board of about nine people, with about 50 total membership. We really worked to set up programs that increase the awareness of the student body, that there is, in fact, an alumni association and alumni house – we also worked on member development programs, networking and things like that.

I come to this with a more holistic approach. I'm a quick study for what's going on already, but if I have other interests we could start looking into other areas just as intensely. There needs to be a huge change in the way we speak to our students. We break people down instead of building

them up.

VAI: What is on your agenda for this coming year?

Slawter: One thing we're particularly interested in is looking at how we move forward and increase alumni giving. Reveley's done a great job, it's really important that finances are a main focus – but how do we increase alumni giving? Right now, the alumni association goes it alone – we need to change the mindset, and that has to be changed with current students. We have to change the mindset on Day 1 of freshman year. [President Valerie Hopkins and I] are meeting with Reveley towards the end of October – we're trying to get more programming, get in student life, determine how you speak to students during orientation and during academic advising, for example. It's like the army – break you down but build you back up. We need to change the dialogue, start a conversation – President Reveley seems extremely receptive.

We also want to continue making huge strides with city. The two block parties we had are a huge testament to students and residents. We're continuing to work with them on that – getting our students a visible, positive presence in the community.

We need to coexist rather than just tolerate one another.

We also want to seriously push for the syllabus database. We have to try and make sure to get top level support, and we think that it will get off the ground and students would love to have that happen.

VAI: How is working with President Hopkins?

Slawter: I think we get along well – we don't have too many mutual friends, don't want to be too sucked into a bubble. The SA gets bogged down. When we talked one-on-one for the first time we found that we had a lot more in common than we thought about our ideas and ultimate goals. But ultimately we both desire to work for the students and that's absolutely the same. We've actually gotten along really well – things have been great. She brings a lot of experience working with the exec and I bring in a good working knowledge on other parts of the campus – we very much compliment each other and I think that will very much help the administration.

VAI: To what degree does student apathy play in affecting how the SA

NEW VICE PRESIDENT
continued on page ten

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Staff Writer

Nearly \$2 million for international aid research

Project-Level Aid (PLAID), an interdisciplinary program at the College, received \$1.4 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as \$500,000 from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. William and Mary Professors Robert Hicks, J. Timmons Roberts and Michael Tierney, along with BYU faculty members Daniel Nielson, Darren Hawkins and Sven Wilson, lead the project. PLAID seeks to compile an Internet database of international development finance. The project, which tracks international aid payments, was conceived by Brad Parks ('03) who found gaps in data concerning international aid while researching his senior honors thesis at the College. Currently, PLAID compiles and logs international aid programs, having registered over 430,000 to date. PLAID will use the additional grants to continue their research and develop a free, comprehensive database of international aid programs.

College considering new performing arts complex to replace PBK

A feasibility study was initiated by the College last month looking into the possible size, design, and cost of a new performing arts facility to replace PBK and Andrews Hall. The proposed facility would integrate numerous academic departments, halls, and theatres and has a mid-point size figure of 200,000 square feet, twice the size of William and Mary Hall and 60,000 square feet larger than the new Miller School of Business. The feasibility study will be completed early next year and there is no timeline set for the project's funding or construction.

W&M professor represents Hinduism in meeting with pope

Assistant William and Mary Religious Studies Professor Ravi Gupta received an invitation in April from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to explain American Hindu religious traditions in a meeting with Pope

Benedict XVI, when the pontiff visited the United States. According to William and Mary News, Mr. Gupta, who then taught at Centre College in Kentucky, found Pope Benedict to be "humble and accommodating." Mr. Gupta moved to William and Mary to teach a higher caliber of students, and to conduct research.

Undergraduate Admissions adds video prompt to application

The Undergraduate Admissions staff has produced a two-minute video explaining the College's supplemental essay to applicants, as opposed to the previously used conventional text prompt on the supplement. Dean of Admission Henry Broaddus wrote the screenplay for the video, which was produced by Kelsh Wilson Design. The video explains the purpose of the College's 500-word supplemental essay and features members of the College's admissions committee dancing the conga, laughing and appearing in a Facebook profile to ease the applicants' stress. The Web video is the first and only video essay prompt used as part of the supplement to the common application.

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Board of Visitors discusses business, transparency

Steven Nelson
News Editor

The Board of Visitors, led by Rector Michael Powell, held meetings on campus late last week. Events included receptions in the Great Hall of the Wren Building and at the Plumeri House, as well as visits to the new Laycock Center and the site of the new School of Education. The BOV has altered slightly since last semester, as three new members have recently been confirmed.

Prior to reconvening on Thursday, the board was greeted in front of Blow Hall by members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Mr. Powell discussed with members his change of mind regarding a presidential search, noting that a lack of a search was not due to the large number of searches underway for various other positions, and noting the terrific job that Taylor Reveley had done as interim president.

Mr. Powell was asked by some if he would be willing to lobby on students' behalf in Richmond for a change to the state law which prohibits students from having a vote on public universities' boards because they have not been formally appointed by the governor. Mr. Powell would not commit to such a step, but was encouraged by students to continue a more open dialogue regarding giving more voice to students in decision making.

A Student Assembly



Andrew McCartney

Powell plays: Rector Powell and the BOV discussed the Reveley appointment and the student body's relationship with the BOV during several meetings this past weekend.

resolution passed the SA Senate with a large majority, commending Mr. Reveley for the work he has done as President, but alleging that Rector Michael Powell did not adequately follow up on his own promise to begin a presidential search and to include students in the future. The bill requires that SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09) deliver to Mr. Powell a letter which says, "Students...were not a viable part of this process and have continued to feel ignored. The only evidence of student

input you have provided is a closed-door meeting with five handicapped students."

The letter to the board, drafted by Chairman of the Senate Walter McClean ('09) went on to say, "We agree that the wounds of the College have not yet healed, but unfortunately your actions have only deepened them... We strongly urge the Board of Visitors to institutionalize the transparency that you claim to value."

The board also focused on efforts by the College on environmental sustainability and the school's endowment. The first staff representative, following in the wake of calls last year for staff representation, was in attendance of meetings, as were student representative and Ms. Hopkins and Faculty representative Katherine Kulick.

Students...were not a viable part of this process and have continued to feel ignored. The only evidence of student input you have provided is a closed-door meeting with five handicapped students.

Hours of operation curbed for Williamsburg bus routes

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

A new school year means new changes to the bus routes, and this year proves to be no exception. Over the past several years, the green and gold bus routes have undergone changes in order to reflect the needs of the William and Mary community. Most recently, the green line bus route was reduced to one bus, and the gold line was adjusted to focus on highly demanded stops.

Bill Horacio, parking and transportation manager at William and Mary, explains that their goal is "to provide the service needed to transport students across campus, while doing so without wasting resources." To accomplish this, the green line now only has one bus running the circuit around campus, keeping within a 30 minute interval. The gold line, which runs after 5 pm, focuses on stops that are in higher demand, such as the hospital parking lots and a Newtown stop. Mr. Horacio had received complaints about the waste of the system, with empty buses riding around. The changes act on these concerns, and also strive to meet the demands of students.

Over the past two years ridership has been decreasing, even with the changes that have been made. For instance, Mr. Horacio notes that two years ago ridership was down by 42 percent, and so the bus route was changed to have a bus running in each direction. But the next year saw a 24 percent drop in riders, despite the changes. Bus drivers record the usage of the routes, and Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT) passes this information on to Mr. Horacio. WAT used to provide monthly reports, but now, by request, Mr. Horacio receives weekly updates to better evaluate the situation. He also uses feedback from riders and bus drivers.

Mr. Horacio is constantly looking for ways to improve the system. Recently, there was a complaint that there was a lack of bus service to the grad complex. A stop has been added to accommodate this need. There has also been some demand for old campus stops, and this feedback is being taken into consideration. However, it can be challenging to alter the routes as Mr. Horacio has to work within a 30 minute interval.

Feedback is welcome, and Mr. Horacio stresses students to voice their concerns through parking and transportation. He says that e-mail is the best mode of communication as of now. WAT is contracted by William and Mary, and so it is through William and Mary that the changes to the green and gold routes are actually made. Parking and transportation services and WAT meet every summer to discuss the bus routes.

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Student Assembly refocuses efforts, Piña resigns

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

Following the tumult of past weeks, the Student Assembly has reared back into full swing. The Student Assembly Senate recently passed a bill sponsored by Sen. Ben Brown ('11) which allocates nearly \$20,000 towards the purchasing of AED defibrillators for numerous locations throughout campus. The bill caught the attention of local press and Mr. Brown was interviewed on local television.

The Senate's outreach committee has been working at communicating with regional press and has organized a "What can your Student Assembly do for you?" event on Thursday, September 30. The event organizer, Sen. Brittany Fallon ('11), hopes to bring students a closer understanding of how the Student Assembly can assist with club funding and other issues.

The Student Rights' Department has been active in pursuing numerous projects, focusing on better understanding and reforming a variety of institutions at William and Mary. Led by Secretary Braum Katz ('10), the department has been off to an energetic start. The Public Affairs Department, led by David Witkowski ('11), has led in efforts which have registered hundreds of new voters.

On September 23, the SA

Senate unanimously confirmed Kristin Slawter ('09) as the new SA vice president. The Senate also spent that meeting collaboratively revising a letter to be delivered to Rector of the Board of Visitors Michael Powell regarding a perceived lack of consultation of the student body regarding his decision to appoint Taylor Reveley to a three year term as the College's president. The letter was originally written by Sen. Walter McClean ('09), and was collectively revised to better express the sentiments of the membership. It expressed both support for President Reveley and disapproval of Mr. Powell's methodology.

The Student Assembly learned almost immediately following the election of freshmen class officers that President of the Class of 2011 Jazmine Piña ('11) chose to resign, and had selected the class' Vice President for Advocacy Sarah Oweremohle ('11) as her replacement. The Senate also allocated \$600 towards the delivery of *The Virginia Gazette* to the College on a trial basis.



Your Student Assembly: After resignations from Pilchen and Piña, the SA is back on track with newly proposed legislation.

Alec McKinley

WMPD expenditures up slightly in last academic year

Steven Nelson
News Editor

Funded primarily through student tuition, the William and Mary Police Department occupies one of the most prominent positions of power over the student body. Underage drinking incidents and parking violations typify the causes of hostility towards the department. Last semester, *The Informer* ran an interview with WMPD Chief Don Challis, who answered many difficult questions, including about an incident which had been previously reported in *The Informer* wherein two female students were refused a ride home by an officer at night, less than 24 hours following the unsolved assault and robbery of a friend near campus.

Long a source of controversy are the campus police expenditures. Expenditures from the 2007-2008 academic year reveal that nearly \$1,800,000 was spent. Nearly

\$150,000 was used for overtime pay, which Mr. Challis describes allowed for security at special events on campus, as well as to pay officers covering others' sick time; some of the overtime was refunded to the department.

POLICE EXPENDITURES RISE
continued on page ten



Alec McKinley

More money, more problems? The WMPD spent \$1.8 million during the 2007-2008 school year.

College students active in presidential campaigns

Rachel Smith
Contributor

In the early hours of the morning on Wednesday, September 24, William and Mary students gathered at the Capitol in Colonial Williamsburg for a live taping of *The Today Show*. As is typical of live shows, cameras panned across a sea of people who had waited several hours just for the chance to be seen on national television. Hand-made posters were everywhere featuring shout outs to parents, children and friends. Although William and Mary students were excited about a possible fifteen seconds of fame and a chance to shake the hands of Al Roker or Matt Lauer, students also had

something else on their minds: this year's upcoming elections. Their passion for this event was displayed on posters rooting for the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates. As McCain and Palin posters covered with patriotic balloons were waved in the air, the students holding Obama and Biden banners chanted "We want change! We want change!" The event began to more closely resemble a political rally than a simple group of excited college students. This enthusiasm shown by students on *The Today Show* is just one example of the proactive stance William and Mary students have taken regarding November 4.

Both Democrats and Republicans on campus are playing an active role in the election by rallying supporters for their respective candidates. In partnership with the local McCain affiliate, Students for McCain hopes to generate a presence on campus by organizing events and providing buttons, banners and shirts to students in the William and Mary community. Students for McCain are also working in partnership with the McCain headquarters for the Williamsburg area. Together, they have organized a distribution of literature throughout the community, which they hope will rally voters to their cause.

The Young Democrats have also played their part by canvassing weekly in Williamsburg and Hampton Roads. According to Andy Garden, the social chair for the Young Democrats, canvassing is not only about recruiting more voters for the Democratic ticket, it's also about making a difference in the lives of individuals.

"I did some canvassing in low-turnout neighborhoods in Norfolk," Mr. Garden said. "Usually they're underrepresented groups: the poor, minorities, people in government housing... people who don't turn out to vote. When you get to register a person to vote for the first time it's really rewarding"

On-campus student involvement, on the part of both Democrats and Republicans, has had a positive impact on the minds of young voters. Both sides of the political spectrum are extremely passionate about the upcoming presidential election and continue to spread this excitement throughout the Williamsburg community.

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Princeton professor lectures on income inequality

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

Professor Larry M. Bartels of Princeton University presented a lecture on Monday, September 22, to students at William and Mary. The presentation was on economic inequality with emphasis on a potential correlation to political leadership. The lecture explored the ideas behind Mr. Bartels' new book, *Economic Inequality and American Democracy*. Mr. Bartels began with the Aristotelian explanation of democracy, which is simply a system where the un-propertied classes have an equal voice, compared to the propertied classes. The explanation sought to answer whether America is indeed a democracy, based on this definition.

Mr. Bartels brought to light certain inequalities in our society. For example, today, the income of the top 300,000 earners account for as much as the bottom 150

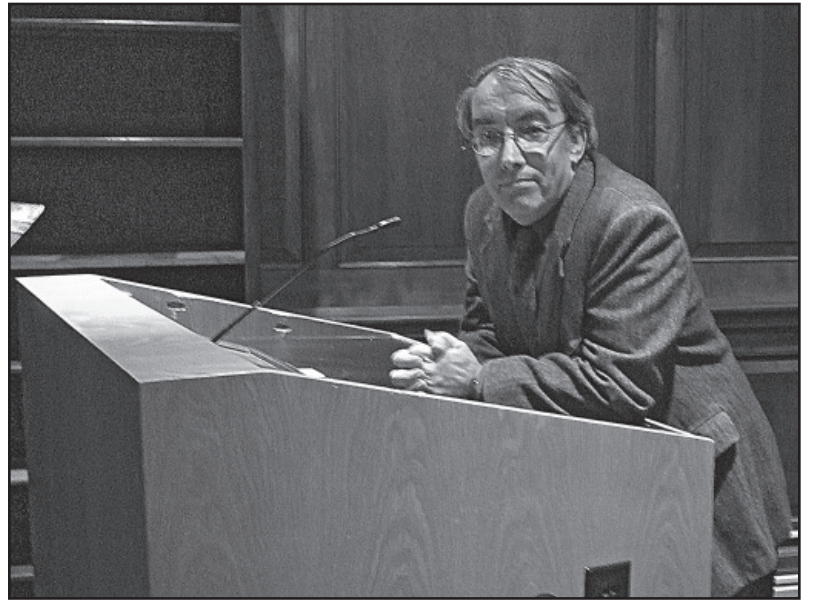
million earners together, which has grown significantly from previous years, both here in the US and in other countries. He explained that this is due mostly to technological change, globalization, demographic shifts and the aggressive income redistribution of other countries.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the lecture was when Mr. Bartels showed how he "tabulated income growth under Democratic and Republican presidents." The resulting graph exhibited a small decrease in income for high earners under the Democrats, and a large increase for high earners under the Republicans. He attributed this to different macroeconomic policy, tax policy and a partisan difference

in social spending. When asked, he also mentioned coincidental economic growth under Republican leadership. Mr. Bartels also argued that the plight of the poor grows steadily worse due to erosion of the minimum wage.

Why then, Mr. Bartels asked the audience, do Republicans still get elected? He seemed to settle on the idea that voters have a "partisan bias due to economic myopia" or they tend to vote for the incumbent or his party when the economy is doing well.

Mr. Bartels seemed more passionate when answering questions, pointedly claiming that "income gains of people at the top are dependent on social resources, and not on their personal ability." To Bartels this warranted extensive taxation and income redistribution. He used the example



Alec McKinley

The rich get richer: Princeton Professor Larry M. Bartels lectured about the differing wealth gap under Republican and Democratic leadership.

Income gains of people at the top are dependent on social resources, and not on their personal ability.

of Hurricane Katrina as a microcosm of this: the poor had no means to leave the affected area, and so were forced to stay, whereas the wealthy could leave by driving on roads (public goods) and buy what they needed with credit cards (provided by the

financial infrastructure, also a public good), and were fine. Mr. Bartels said there is something "troubling about inequality itself," implying that the government should redistribute income based on a relative measure, and not on an absolute one.

Students for a Better Williamsburg hosts Councilman Paul Freiling

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Last week, the newly formed 527 PAC Students for a Better Williamsburg, along with additional student groups, hosted City Councilman Paul Freiling to discuss a number of issues surrounding town gown relations. Over 40 students attended this event, a larger student attendance than that of the Student Assembly sponsored Student Issues Debate held prior to the Williamsburg City Council elections last spring.

Mr. Freiling briefly introduced himself to students, speaking informally for the duration of the evening. "In the past, it was not because there was a lack of desire by city officials to talk to students -- the opportunity just usually did not present itself," said Mr. Freiling. He also stated that this event would serve as a way for both the town and students to come to an understanding, and to advance the ongoing dialogue between the city and students. The councilman spent the majority of his time fielding questions from students.

The opening question posed to Mr. Freiling centered on cuts made to the Williamsburg Area Transportation, such that buses service to the College only run between 9 am and 5 pm. Mr. Freiling actually admitted to not knowing about these cuts which were implemented

over the summer. Noting the influence of both increasing gas prices and increased ridership demand, Mr. Freiling directed students to pursue various avenues in addressing these cuts. New transportation initiatives for students were also highlighted,

including new trolley services to Merchant Square, High Street, New Town and the College, which will be launched next month. "The city is ultimately better off with students having accessible transportation into the city, as tax revenues are a major benefit," said Mr. Freiling.

Tension between students and the city have flared up in the recent years on issues such as rental properties and student voting rights. Mr. Freiling addressed the former issue, saying, "Rentals aren't inherently bad, and if we try to get rid of them we are denying access to many members of the community -- we want an environment where renters and owners cooperate." Mr. Freiling also cited a number of initiatives the city is leading to show appreciation for students. "We want to get to the

place where we celebrate the College together," he said. One initiative in particular, Go Green Virginia, was highlighted as a possible avenue for joint venture between students and the city. The city is hoping to move from its current third level under the program to the forth and highest level along with the help of students.

Mr. Freiling also specifically addressed the possibility of eliminating the city's three-person-to-a-house rule, also referred as the "brothel rule" for restricting one rental's occupancy to three non-related individuals. "The elimination of the three person to a housing rule is not going to happen. Instead, we might see the emergence of a special use permit process with basic requirements needed to rent to more than three people. This would place the burden on the landlords for upkeep," said Mr. Freiling. Mr. Freiling also discussed other student housing issues, highlighting the possibility on working toward zoning property for privately run student housing units. "We need the support of the College administration in order to do this. In the past, the school's administration was dead set against similar efforts," said Mr. Freiling.

Discussion also touched on last spring's city council election, in which SA Senator Matt Beato ('09) made a competitive bid for election to city council. SA Senator and Virginia Informer News Editor Steven Nelson ('10) inquired, "How can we, the students, be represented without a student on council?" To this, Mr. Freiling replied, "You can be represented to the degree that you allow yourself to be represented," noting that city administrators are prepared to address student concerns when raised.

In response to the possibility of establishing a third polling place in the city, which would be located on the College, Mr. Freiling stated, "We would have to think about it, as the decision is not entirely up to us." In reality, the establishment of a third polling place within Williamsburg would be under the purview of the General Assembly and the State Board of Elections.

Students for a Better Williamsburg (SBW) represents the combined efforts of SA Senator Michael Douglass ('11), Josh Karp ('11) and Virginia Informer editor Nick Fitzgerald ('09) to bring greater student representation to the city of Williamsburg, independent of involvement by the Student Assembly. Mr. Douglass was very impressed with the student turnout for this event: "We hope to do more of these discussions with city officials in the near future. We might be hosting another one mid-November, shortly after the end to the national elections, followed by another one early December." Mr. Douglass and the other students involved with SBW are very optimistic for the future of the organization. "We have found a way to make students interested in the city's government that the SA could not," he said.



File Photo

FREILING

Rentals aren't inherently bad, and if we try to get rid of them we are denying access to many members of the community -- we want an environment where renters and owners cooperate.

ELECTION SUCCESS: Freshman elections conclude without incident

continued from page one

good group of people it was and wanted to work with them." He also liked "how active the students were in school policy" compared to his high school.

Stef Felitto ('12) plans on "being a public policy and government major," and she really "likes the formalized setting of the Senate." She mentioned campus safety and her natural pragmatism. She is a certified life guard, and took the recent AED act as an example of her practicality: she said the bill was "tested" by running around campus to see if there was "an AED 4 minutes away from any location." But, she continued, "campus police routinely arrive anywhere within 30 seconds or so, and they have a portable AED with them" which makes the placement of "more AEDs somewhat moot." So, she reasoned, the Senate is "spending \$19,000 on it... We should probably have a more formalized process." But, she insisted, "safety should be our number one priority."

Tom Flaherty ('12) is a public policy and IR major, as well as a Sharpe Scholar with lobbying experience. He "really wanted to run because [he] didn't have the opportunity in high school." He said he's good at "pitching things, selling ideas and putting policy initiatives into terms that people want to hear -- whatever values someone has, I try to relate what I am talking about to what they stand for." He continued that he is "looking for people who want their ideas brought up in the Senate, because it's my job as a senator to represent my fellow students."

Kobie Gordon ('12) was elected president of the freshman class, he is a Monroe scholar, "very experienced working with others" and has "great leadership and people skills." He was president of the National Honor Society, the Tri-M Honor Society and was also drum major in his high school's marching band. As president of his class, he "wants to focus on creating a stronger bond between the students and the SA."



File Photo

Gossip Girls: JuicyCampus has engaged in character assassinations on several students at the College. However, posts range from the vicious to the ridiculous.

College student mobilizes against JuicyCampus

Michelle Ju
Features Editor

It's still a surprise to see how alluring good-natured malignance, conveniently hidden under the lack of an avatar, provokes the curiosities of undergrads. JuicyCampus has arrived on the scene as an upgrade to the gossip-run populace that is our campus. The site, which boasts up to a few thousand hits per featured thread, is exactly what it sounds like: A smutty search engine full of the mundane, the nonsensical and the outright obscene.

"There is a huge demand for a site where students can discuss the topics that interest them most, in the manner they deem most appropriate," said Matt Ivester, the founder, president and CEO of Lime Blue Inc., the parent company of JuicyCampus, which was launched in October 2007. Popular discussions, anonymous and uncensored, range from "Biggest Stoners" to "Best Sex on Campus."

JuicyCampus is owned by Delaware Corporation, Lime Blue Inc., which is based in Los Angeles. According to its Web site, JuicyCampus serves well over 60 campuses. Though JuicyCampus has been attacked for its controversial nature, it stands by its position to not censor any content. JuicyCampus urges users to follow guidelines of not "posting lies about people or groups, and [not posting] copyrighted material." The site also reserves the right to "remove posts at its discretion."

Mr. Ivester, the brains behind JuicyCampus, contends that the site provides "the same gossip that used to happen offline. As college students spend more time on the Internet, it should be no surprise that gossip is moving online" as well. However, the site does offer some limits to its use. Mr. Ivester assures that any search engines, such as Google, are blocked from providing JuicyCampus feeds, in order to protect mentioned names from overexposure. "Also, the site removes contact information when notified, and deletes spam and hate speech, citing that these things are 'remarkably unjuicy.'"

Meanwhile, Mr. Ivester, a former

undergraduate of Duke University, served as the associate consultant for a management consulting firm in New York, while working with Fortune 500 companies. However, he decided to part ways and follow his long-time piqued interests in technology and entrepreneurship. Before entering the industry, Mr. Ivester also served as president of his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, at Duke and graduated in May 2005 with a BS in Economics and Computer Science. These majors clearly fit nicely with his current occupation.

SA Senator Ben Brown ('11), creator of the Facebook group "William and Mary Students Against Juicy Campus," explained, "All in all, I think most students agree that JuicyCampus is primarily a waste of time. I do not feel a strong need to eliminate it, or its use, but think that people have better things to do than post anonymous smears all day. The Facebook group I created is merely a way of people saying, 'I have better things to do with my time' by joining. I don't expect JuicyCampus to go anywhere anytime soon. But it doesn't really bother us if we choose to ignore it." The group is not necessarily urging for the site to be shut down, but it actively encourages students to "discontinue their use of the Web site entirely." However, Mr. Brown admits that he has no plans to organize a ban on JuicyCampus, because that would be a "violation of the First Amendment."

Though not exactly malicious, compared with many other gossip columns, the site still lacks any consistent reliability of sources. In fact, the William and Mary JuicyCampus site has been nearly clogged with as much intentionally fictitious, "mindless drivel" spam as people can manage. Most of the content is unguided and rarely makes any sense. Regardless, all hell could break loose on a site that requires no identity from its contributors, and let's face it, *anything* on there is fair game. Currently, the site has already received nearly 10,000 requests from campuses to be added onto its domain, while this fall, it is expected to host over 500 campuses and attract over a million new visitors.

EMPOWER Congo: Invigorating student activism

Sarah Nadler
Staff Writer

One of the most celebrated aspects of a William and Mary education is the opportunity to create organizations catered to the individual's passions and interests. While the college is home to more than 400 clubs, Julia Riesenber (¹¹) felt there was a lack of activism on campus regarding the conflict in Darfur. As a result, this summer, she worked to found EMPOWER Congo. EMPOWER, or Effort to Mobilize and Prevent Women from Exploitation and Rape, focuses on the female victims of war in the Congo.

The story behind this club's creation is unique. Ms. Riesenber, who started a similar club in her Northern Virginia high school, joined the William and Mary chapter of STAND in her freshman year. Formerly named Students Taking Action Now Darfur, STAND is now called "A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition," which has grown to over 700 chapters in 25 countries. The William and Mary chapter was inactive on campus, so Ms. Riesenber took matters into her own hands. She met with the founder of STAND to learn more about the challenges facing Darfur, and what she could do to help. Following this meeting, she felt an urge to help the women of the Congo, and she knew that William and Mary would help her support her efforts with EMPOWER.

EMPOWER Congo has high hopes for their first semester at William and Mary. Their goals include attending rallies for the cause in Washington, DC, starting letter writing campaigns that call on Congress to

acknowledge the conditions in the Congo and provide aid, spreading education and awareness throughout the campus and Williamsburg, and potentially partnering with women's groups in Williamsburg. EMPOWER Congo will also be fundraising to sponsor a woman from the DRC through WomenForWomen.org.

In order to sponsor one woman, they must raise \$350. Women for Women is a non-profit organization that provides victims with support, allowing women "to change their lives through a holistic approach that addresses the unique needs of women in conflict and post-conflict environments." Sponsoring a woman helps with both the counseling aspects of recovery, and more traditional needs such as food, water, healthcare and medicine. The ultimate goal of Women for Women is to help victims become healthy, active citizens through education and job skills training.

While \$350 may not sound like much, the effect of that amount of money in the Congo can be life changing. As a result, EMPOWER Congo has several fundraising events planned for this semester. Next week is IRep Week at the College, and at EMPOWER, members will be selling bracelets. EMPOWER will also host Decky Kimbango, a native and expert on the Congo who now works for the Center for Strategic International Studies, and will plan for him to speak at a Tazwell luncheon from 2 to 4 pm. EMPOWER's fundraising plans also include a sponsored run for women.

If you would like to join EMPOWER Congo, please contact Julia Riesenber at jmriesenberg@wm.edu.

Tour of local brewery quenches thirst for beer, knowledge

Many people falsely assume that education and alcohol consumption can never beneficially co-exist. Such a stigma is likely reinforced because of the skipped classes, poor decisions and lost brain cells that result from a night of drinking. However, a tour of Williamsburg AleWerks succeeds in two key areas: it makes learning fun and drinking educational. And for only five dollars, it caters to budget-minded students that are thirsty for both beer and knowledge – and isn't that the definition of a well-rounded individual?

The tour starts in the store portion of the brewery where the head brewmaster gives a painstakingly detailed history of beer. Let's just say that the 20 minute lecture begins 2,000 years before Christ and involves cave-dwelling beer drinkers. The history lesson progresses into the Roman era and ends with the 17th century brewing habits of Jamestown residents. There were about 25 people in our tour group and I was probably the youngest by 30 years. Additionally, most of them – coming



Jon San
Managing Editor

from across the country - were amateur brewers and probably understood the majority of what was said. I however, retained only pieces of the filibuster: the difference between an ale (brewed at 75 degrees Fahrenheit) and a lager (brewed between 40 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit), and the fact that the Green Leaf is only 100 yards from Zable, making it the closest bar to any NCAA stadium in the country. But that doesn't mean the tour is worthless. Once the tour

BEER BONANZA
continued on page ten



Jon San

Beer me a tour: The Williamsburg AleWerks' porter recently won the distinction of being the best porter in the Mid-Atlantic region by the US Beer Tasting Group.

Those Guys:

TODAY anchors give exclusive interview to *The Informer*

Jon San

Managing Editor

In between their numerous on-air appearances at the Capitol Building and on DoG Street, Al Roker and Matt Lauer were able to spend some time chatting with *The Virginia Informer*. Fresh off the 2008 Summer Olympics, Mr. Roker

discussed his Beijing experience and his superbly choreographed rhythmic gymnastics routine, which he performed with Mr. Lauer. The conversation soon revealed Mr. Roker's zeal for *Arrested Development* and the fact that barbeques, long assumed to be a mainstay of southern cuisine, are alive and well in Manhattan.

Mr. Lauer, a graduate of football powerhouse Ohio University, discussed his sports fanaticism and his eclectic iPod. A former resident of Richmond -- where he briefly stayed three years after college during the early 1980s -- Mr. Lauer is no stranger to Williamsburg, having visited on several occasions.

Both men spoke highly of Colonial

Williamsburg, with Mr. Lauer saying his suite at the Williamsburg Inn -- the same room which the Queen of England stayed in last year -- was "just what [he] needed" after less than royal treatment at his previous hotel in Tampa, Florida. Not to be outdone, Mr. Roker stayed in the suite where the queen stayed during her 1957 visit.

A chat with Al Roker

The Virginia Informer: How were the Olympics this past August?

Roker: The Olympics were great. It was a culture I've never experienced -- I've never been to Beijing, never been to China, never even been to Asia. So, it was a really amazing experience.

VAI: For one segment, you and Matt performed a rhythmic gymnastics performance at one of the Beijing stadiums. How did you choreograph such an elaborate routine?

Roker: Well, the bar was previously set by [producer] Jackie Olensky, who produced the luge piece [a segment the two anchors did together during the 2006 Winter Olympics]. So we had to one-up it and do something that was somewhat...homoerotic.

VAI: More importantly, how did you keep a straight face?

Roker: Well, because we were very serious about it, we didn't want to make fun of the athletes, because it is a real sport. And, PS, once you see them do it, you really

appreciate what they do -- it's just incredible and requires a lot of hard work.

VAI: Moving on from sports -- in terms of music, what would someone find on Al Roker's iPod?

Roker: It's funny because recently I haven't been listening to that much music -- I've been watching a lot more video. I'm watching *Arrested Development* right now and I love *The Office*, *24*, *Lost*, *Heroes*. Oh, and *30 Rock* -- haven't seen the premiere for that yet though.

VAI: I noticed someone handed you a bottle of Pierce's barbeque sauce earlier. Are you a barbeque enthusiast?

Roker: Oh yeah, I love barbeque. And you know, in my travels there's always places that I like to go to but surprisingly, New York and specifically in the city, has become a real haven for barbeque. There are maybe a dozen really good barbeque places just in Manhattan and that's not even counting the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Matt Lauer talks sports, superstitions

The Virginia Informer: Do you have any pre-on-air superstitions or rituals that you do?

Lauer: You know, in the studio I have one dumb one. It's just, and I don't know why this happens, but you walk in the door of our studio and you have two ways you can go to reach the anchors' desk: you can go right and go behind the news desk or you can take the long way and go left. And for some stupid reason, every day for 15 years I've taken that long way on the left. I just always do it -- and now I consciously think, "that's the way I'm going to go."

VAI: I asked Al this earlier, but what would a Matt Lauer play list look like on your iPod?

Lauer: Oh God, I have such an eclectic taste to be honest. I got a lot of stuff from the 70s -- a lot of classic rock, a lot of Stones, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye. But then I also have more recent stuff like John Legend, Norah Jones. Who else do I have... I just got this new album with Robert Plant. ... I'm all over the place, it's hard to get a sense of my personality based on my music collection.

VAI: And then with TV shows, is there any show that you can't miss? That you require people to Tivo for you while you're on the road?

Lauer: You know what's really strange? For someone in the television business, I am 100 percent sure that I watch less television than anyone else in the business. I have no appointment viewing and I watch almost no prime-time TV. But I love the classics: *Seinfeld*, *Cheers*, *Frasier*. But these days I have three little kids and I spend the hours of 6 pm to 8 pm putting them to bed and such and then right afterwards, when most people are watching prime-time TV -- I'm doing my homework.

[At this point, two fans have been following us through the bushes and finally ask Mr. Lauer to sign their posters, which he does].

VAI: What about sports? How do you feel about the new Yankee stadium?

Lauer: Oh yeah, I'm a pretty big sports fan. I love the New York Giants, I love the Yankees and the Knicks, although it's been a tough couple of years. And I loved the old Yankee stadium but I'm looking forward to the new one as well. And as much as I can, I try and follow Ohio [University] sports but it's really tough with my schedule.

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Jeff Dailey

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

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Chill the Andre and Boone's Farm until nearly freezing. Pour equal parts Andre and Boone's into glass and stir.

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Enjoy the fact that you got 1.5 liters of 15 percent alcohol for under \$10.

Editor's Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.

Vicious hawk attacks on the rise:
Campus squirrels on high alert

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

There have been reports of squirrel hunters on campus. Out of nowhere, they swoop down, grab an unsuspecting squirrel and fly away, leaving behind awed and bewildered spectators. According to Dr. Dan Cristol, biology professor at William and Mary, this is perfectly normal for red-tailed hawks.

There are two types of hawks on campus that are potential squirrel hunters: the red-shouldered hawk and the red-tailed hawk. On campus, the red-shouldered hawk, the smaller of the two, is found mainly in the wildflower reserve. They tend to eat smaller animals like snakes and frogs. The larger hawk is the red-tailed hawk.

A pair of red-tailed hawks resides year round on campus, and every summer produces a new nest of baby hawks near Lake Matoaka. By fall, these young hawks have left the nest and are usually found around the Sunken Gardens and around the sun dial in front of Swem. They are distinguishable from their parents by their lack of a red tail. Dr. Cristol says that these are usually the birds that students tend to see diving for squirrels.

After a successful dive, a hawk will fly to a perch with an unlucky squirrel in its clutches. With

ten talons digging into it, it is only a matter of seconds before the squirrel is dead, allowing the hawk to proceed with its delectable feast, which includes everything but the skull and intestines. The hawk will sit for a couple of hours, savoring every bite of its squirrel. Later the bird will hack up a pellet of bones that it cannot digest. Students may get to experience this portion of the meal firsthand as well, since -- according to Dr. Cristol -- the hawks around campus tend to be tamer, and will allow people to gawk at them as they enjoy their meal.

The number of young red-tailed hawks at William and Mary varies with the squirrel population, which, in turn, is dependent on the acorn supply. Young hawks may stick around campus through the winter and even into the following spring if there is a large enough squirrel population to support them.



Roshan Patel

Air Strike: This stunning photo, taken on campus, shows how many College squirrels have become victims of hawk-related fatalities.

Dollars and sense for students:
Saving money and supporting America in these hard economic times

This past month's financial crisis has been shocking to everyone. We have seen some of the most powerful retail and investment banks declare bankruptcy, resulting in the largest bank failure in U.S. history. We are hearing political and economic leaders talk about the likelihood of a coming depression on a scale which we have not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Congress is discussing one of the largest government bailouts in world history.

So what does this all mean for us students? We are in a quasi-zone: not yet out in the real world, looking for a job, but yet it looms not far off on the horizon. Most of us are just beginning to think of investing and savings-strategies, but with the latest activities on Wall Street, that's not looking promising in the short term either. We are inundated with the rising cost of practically everything, from tuition to textbooks, food to fuel, school supplies to movie tickets. With more state budget



Jennifer Souers
Business Editor

cuts being discussed for the College, it seems as though there is no coming reprieve. There is good news though. Because we are young and just starting out, if we maintain a long-term perspective, things will most assuredly work out. In the coming years, we will move out of this recessionary period, and things will again be strong and prosperous. In the short-term, however, there are things that all of us can do on an individual basis to save money and support the American economy at the same time.

The number one thing that every individual can do, no matter their income level, is to consciously purchase American products. And the best place to start is at the grocery store. Check to make sure that all produce you buy is from American farmers. The most commonly imported produce items are typically tomatoes, lettuce, peppers and strawberries. Most

of these come from Mexico and Chile. Most grocery stores will offer several different types of produce, so you can usually find the American version of what you're looking for. American produce is oftentimes cheaper and will also go to support American farmers and our economic wellbeing. In addition to produce, look to make sure where everything you buy is made. See where your electronics are assembled, where your furniture is made, even where something as simple as your pens are produced. Keeping money here

There is good news though. Because we are young and just starting out, if we maintain a long-term perspective, things will most assuredly work out.

at home by supporting American producers is one way that everyone can strengthen our economy. In addition to supporting American goods, everyday consumers like students can help save money in these troubling times by buying generic-brand goods. Marketing students will tell you that there is often little difference in the quality of a good between a brand-name and a generic product. The only major

difference is name recognition. So what are some simple and easy products that you can buy generic and save hundreds of dollars every year on? Toilet paper, cotton balls, shampoo, laundry detergent, basic food items like dry pasta or bread, and over-the-counter (OTC) pain relievers are just a few items where little to no difference may exist. Many OTC generic drugs contain the same ingredients and usually the same balance of those ingredients as brand name OTCs like Tylenol or Advil. This is because once a company's patent has expired, other companies are allowed to produce the same good, thus making many generic products almost exactly the same as the brand name (check with your doctor before switching to generic for prescription drugs, as those many contain substantial differences).

By being intelligent consumers we can easily save money and support the American economy at the same time. It might take America some time to recover from these uncertain times, but over the long run, with smart business practices and savings strategies, we will again be strong and prosperous.

TODAY gets colonial with visit to Williamsburg

Behind-the-scenes look with Matt Lauer and Al Roker

Jon San
Managing Editor

I knew that it would be an interesting day when I heard that Tiki Barber would be doing make-up for the morning's production. To clarify, the make-up artist was not the former UVA and New York Giants star running-back and current *Today Show* correspondent, but a woman that just happened to share the same name. In any case, the sleepy town of Colonial Williamsburg was thrown into the national spotlight when number one ranked morning show *TODAY* broadcast from DoG Street last Wednesday at 7 am.

I arrived at 4 am, eagerly (and sleepily) awaiting my duties as a runner for the DoG Street portion of the shoot. While the capitol building area featured a fife and drum band and live cannon fire, seeing Al Roker ride towards campus in a horse-drawn carriage outfitted in colonial garb was reward enough for me. Not to mention the crowd – and what a crowd. Speaking from personal experience, sleep may be the most valued

commodity here at the College and I doubted that even *The Today Show* could rouse students from their deep slumber. I could not have been more wrong. At least 80 people, mostly students, lined the barriers in the pre-dawn darkness at 4 am – three hours before Al Roker was set to arrive. Some had arrived as early as 2:30 am. Lessandra MacHamer, supervising production manager at NBC, was almost stampeded when she told the excited crowd they could proceed to a closer barricade. The star-struck faces of students and Williamsburg residents were partially blocked by the enormous wave of signs and banners. Most of them politically oriented, some stand-outs included a random “Michael Stipe 4 President,” the expected “Lauer / Roker 08,” a group of “zombies” in undead make-up holding a sign that read, simply “Brains!” and a host of “Happy Birthday” and “Hi Mom and Dad” signs. Other

crowd-members clutched copies of books or leaflets that they hoped to hand to Lauer or Roker on-air. While I was searching the crowd for familiar faces, I noticed a middle aged woman decked out in a pink princess costume. She was holding a sign that read “Health Fairy for President.” After chatting with her for a bit, I discovered that this “health fairy” is actually Rene Bowditch, an instructor at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and co-founder of Beyond Boobs – a support group for breast cancer survivors. She kindly handed me a calendar “for my sister or girlfriend.” I informed her that I was lacking in both categories but kept it anyways. By this time I had compiled a medium sized goodie bag for Roker. The contents included two William and Mary hats, two hats for Pierce's Barbeque, a bottle of Pierce's BBQ Sauce (to be fair, Mr. Roker is an avid barbeque enthusiast) and other trinkets.

As show-time grew nearer, the Richmond NBC-12 affiliate began riling up the crowd, their screams cascading into a deafening roar as mild-mannered Al Roker approached. Like an orchestral conductor, Mr. Roker was able to control the crowd's volume effortlessly. When the screams impaired his ability to hear his monitor, he calmly asked the enamored fans to quiet down. But when asked to help wake Joe Michaels, the *Today Show* director operating from the New York control room, the crowd responded emphatically, yelling “Wake up Joe Michaels!” It was loud enough to raise Thomas Jefferson from his grave, that is, if Thomas Jefferson was not already strolling down DoG Street. Dressed as what can only be described as a foppish dandy in his black coattails, pilgrim's hat and cane, the College's beloved TJ spent some time chatting with Mr. Roker about the similarities between the upcoming November



Jon San

A Colonial Greeting: Well-known TV personality and weatherman Al Roker arrived in Colonial garb and on a horse-drawn carriage.

election between Sens. Obama and McCain and the election of 1800 where Jefferson and incumbent president John Adams tied for first place -- Jefferson was eventually elected to office by the House of Representatives.

At 8:30 am, Mr. Roker, wearing a William and Mary hat, was joined by Matt Lauer for a few more spots before they could call it a wrap. The crowd had begun to wane in number as more serious minded students had early morning classes to catch. However, the *TODAY* duo still had substantial screaming behind them. At 9 am, with his on-air time finished, Mr. Lauer walked back towards the capitol building to pack up his belongings and hit the road. He hadn't seen his family in a couple days and, despite the reinvigorating spa treatment at the

Williamsburg Inn, was feeling a little fatigued. I walked with him back to his car, chatting informally along the way. Despite the time-crunch, Mr. Lauer stopped to shake hands, pose for pictures and sign posters with the numerous fans that littered his path. I bid him farewell at Francis Street and

hastened back to DoG Street to catch the final cooking segment featuring Mr. Roker and King's Arms Tavern Chef Hans Schadler. I had caught a glance of scallops and crab cakes earlier in the day and there was no way I'd be missing that kind of breakfast.

It was 10:30 am and I had been awake for seven and a half hours. I yawned, knowing all too well that more would follow, and trudged up DoG Street to begin my school day.

Like an orchestral conductor, Mr. Roker was able to control the crowd's volume effortlessly.

It was loud enough to raise Thomas Jefferson from his grave, that is, if Thomas Jefferson was not already strolling down DoG Street.



Jon San

DoG Street Gets Busy: Matt Lauer chatted with President of Colonial Williamsburg and BOV member Colin Campbell about politics during the 17th century and currently.



Jon San

The 4 am Campaign: Obama and McCain supporters were in full force at the morning shoot with nearly every crowd member holding a sign or poster.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT: Slawter to fill vacant position after presidential selection, Senate confirmation

continued from page two

runs as an organization? And what of students only getting involved and caring when something controversial happens?

Slawter: I'm not frustrated that we do a lot of work and it's often thankless, but some people are.

I do things because I care about them and I'm passionate about them, and I don't need reinforcement to feel good and know I made a positive difference. Sometimes you just have to maintain the status quo – people are louder and more vocal when there's disagreement. When things are running smoothly you aren't going to hear as much about it. I know that as a class officer, you work really hard and it requires a lot of behind the scenes liaison work. That's fine. I do things because I personally care about them – I don't need reinforcement behind me.

As far as apathy in the student body, the huge issue there is unawareness. It's not malignant, but a testament to the fact that our students are very, very involved – you have an SA niche and you have a service trip niche and you have a volunteering niche. I think we have dropped the ball in letting students know how relevant the SA is, and that we can be a very, very effective body to go to on campus. We're not just aspiring politicians arguing about a piece of legislation. I think the situation with Zach was very unfortunate – I feel for him, I know he's accomplished really great things. It's unfortunate to see that obscured by a lapse in judgment.

Also, I'm glad I didn't get too negatively painted as an SA insider because I don't think I am. I'm not in the bubble.

VAI: What's an example of a big deficiency in the previous administration that you would like to change or see changed?

Slawter: I think Val and Zach have been a bit combative with city members and administrators. If you identify a problem you have to propose a solution – anyone can say, 'We didn't like what you did,' but how would you do it better? Criticizing the process and the manner, that's completely ok – but I think that if you're going to deliver something in writing about your dissatisfaction you should have proposed a better way.

VAI: What is your position on President Reveley, particularly now that he has a more permanent status?

Slawter: There are some faculty members who aren't so thrilled – but I think that he's an absolutely fantastic choice. I understand that the BOV wanted to get this underway, that they wanted to get this behind them and move on with the year. Let him start going at it wholeheartedly – but I'm not really sure I understand why there needed to be such immediacy in removing the interim title.

VAI: As a matter of interpretation, do you believe that the BOV is accountable to the student body?

Slawter: Yes. Because you can't fully cut student opinion out. They are not technically accountable -- they are doing us a favor – but it's a favor that makes a lot of sense.

I come to this with a more holistic approach. I'm a quick study for what's going on already, but if I have other interests we could start looking into other areas just as intensely.

POLICE EXPENDITURES RISE: 07-08 budget totals \$1.8 million, up from 06-07

continued from page four

\$38,000 went towards gasoline, perhaps indicative of the sharp rise in cost over the year.

Personnel expenses were budgeted for the 2007-2008 year at \$1,531,431 and ultimately totaled \$1,594,166, overrunning budgeting by over \$60,000. In the 2006-2007 year, the personnel expenses for the department were \$1,489,798. The one-year increase amounts to \$104,368.

Non-personnel expenses were budgeted at \$122,567, but totaled \$166,390, exceeding the budget by more than \$40,000. In the 2006-2007 academic year, the total spent was \$226,189. A possible explanation for this decrease in non-personnel spending

is the apparent reduction in costs for what was then a new all-campus radio network, with airwaves leased from York County.

Other expenses of note include \$3,330 spent on recruitment advertising and \$22,309, which went towards law enforcement supplies. According to an investigation by *The Informer* last year, these supplies are likely uniforms and other miscellaneous items which are used by members of the department.

Total expenditures for the department were slightly higher than of the previous year. The high-profile case of serial graffiti vandalism did not significantly affect expenses of the department, according to Mr. Challis.

A sample of local Williamsburg ales

continued from page six

proceeds into the adjacent microbrewery, you can really understand how much work goes into creating a case of beer. Massive boiling cylinders full of different quantities of grains and hops line the wall and tubing is stretched precariously across the room like a spider web. It resembled a more crude, and obviously more alcohol focused, version of Wonkaland. I was tempted to pull an Augustus Gloop and dive in the beer river.

After learning an obscene amount of information regarding brewing strategies, the tour concluded with the long-awaited and primary reason for my being there – beer tasting. Tour goers are given a glass and then are allowed to sample each of six drafts that are brewed in-house. The beers range from a light pale ale (my personal favorite) to the heavy, chocolaty porter. During each round of tasting, an AleWerks employee gave a brief rundown of the different ingredients in each beer and the length and temperature of the brewing process. It was interesting to hear since most of the time we drink beer without any

regard to the amount of time and energy that goes into its production.

Having never been on a brewery tour before, visiting the Williamsburg AleWerks was a great experience. The content may be a little too detailed for the average beer-drinker (I thought the history of beer lecture could have been summarized in five minutes rather than 20) but any moment of boredom during the tour is redeemed during the tasting portion. I highly recommend that everyone should take the tour – at the very least you get a good buzz and a free glass for five dollars.

Williamsburg AleWerks is located at 189-B Ewell Road, right off of Richmond Road. Tours are conducted daily at 3 pm with the exception of Sunday. Additionally, Williamsburg AleWerks sells a variety of original t-shirts, merchandise and, of course, beer. Their beer is also available at a number of local establishments, including Bloom.

Editor's Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.

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Caesar & Cleopatra combines politics and drama

Megan Locke

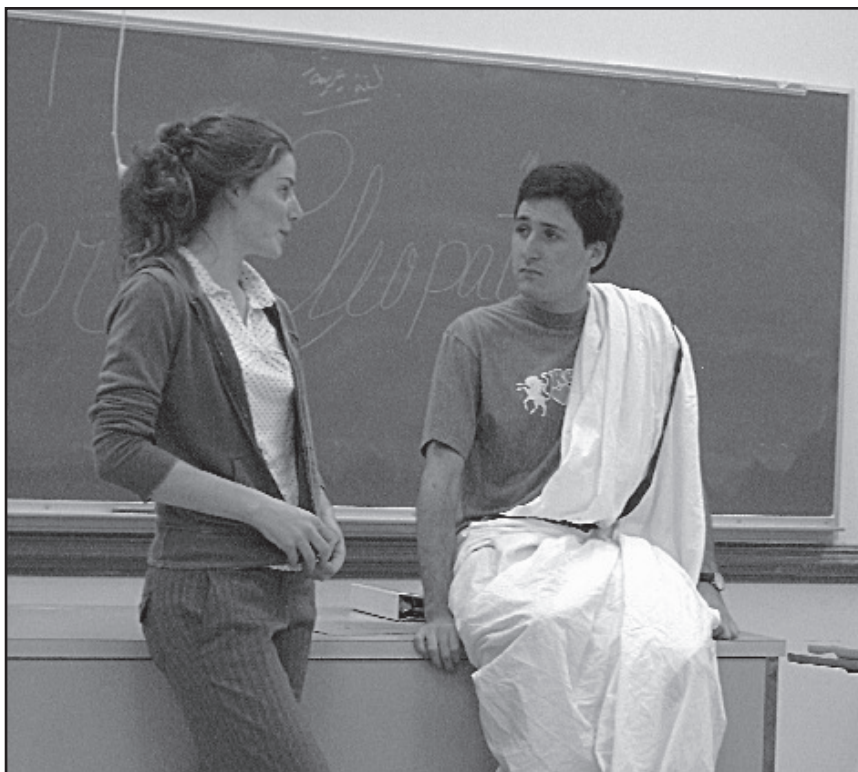
Arts & Culture Editor

Mystic Theatre's production of *Caesar & Cleopatra* has come at the perfect time for theatre-goers to enjoy the play's clashing political relationships in what is an extremely politically-charged fall. Written in 1898, the themes of George Bernard Shaw's play about the nuances of power still resonate in the world today.

In *Caesar & Cleopatra*, the commanding Caesar serves as a political mentor to the young Cleopatra. Director Andy DiAntonio ('10) emphasizes that in this play, Cleopatra is a spoiled young girl and not portrayed as the stereotypical temptress while the relationship between her and Caesar is strictly a political one.

Shaw wrote the play during the height of British colonialism. "The play makes us think whether the combination of colonialism and government is necessarily good or bad in the post-colonial world today," said Mr. DiAntonio. Assistant Director Jimmy Lewis ('10) commented, "we chose *Caesar & Cleopatra* because it's a different show for this campus, it's exotic and it's in the public domain."

Mystic Theatre's production features some fresh new faces who have performed in high school and community theater before, but are debuting on the William and



Megan Locke

Fateful encounter: Alex Volpert and John Kessler rehearse for the scene in which Cleopatra and Caesar first meet during George Bernard Shaw's play.

Mary stage. Joe Kessler ('10), portraying Julius Caesar, said, "I like the dynamic between Caesar and Cleopatra. It is more like a power struggle, since Cleopatra sees Caesar as an authority figure who she

wants to be like on the Egyptian throne. This aspect gives the play a 'newer' twist on a familiar story."

Alex Volpert ('11), who plays Cleopatra, describes her character as initially "ditzy

and bouncy." She said, "Although this is not very flattering, she's an easy character to channel. She evolves in the play, and goes from simpering to in control." Ms. Volpert believed that Shaw created Caesar as the perfect conqueror who does not believe in revenge and is successful because he is a wise ruler.

According to Mr. DiAntonio, the fact that Shakespeare in the Dark's production of *Antony & Cleopatra* will be performed later this fall at the College is a coincidence. "However, the two plays are connected. *Caesar & Cleopatra* ends where Shakespeare's *Antony & Cleopatra* begins. On Broadway, the two shows ran back to back," said Mr. DiAntonio. It will certainly be an interesting experience for students who see both plays this semester.

Mr. Kessler encourages students to come and see this play because it is the first student theater performance in Lake Matoaka since it has been renovated. The setting will take advantage of the natural geography of the area. "There is a lot of energy in the cast. I can feel it on stage, and it will be fun to watch," Ms. Volpert said.

Performances will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 30, Wednesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 2, at 7 pm at Lake Matoaka. Tickets will be \$5 for students.

William & Mary's got talent

Melissa Gomez

Contributor

On Friday, September 19, Lodge 1 in the Sadler Center became center stage for the newest "reality" competition, So You Think You've Got Talent. Hosted by Botetourt and Dupont Hall Councils, eighteen acts came together on the stage to duke it out in a fierce battle for a \$75 gift card.

The evening consisted of a wide variety of acts, everything from stand-up comedy to dance to throat singing. Cliff Burke ('10) and Erica Hart ('10) made the audience laugh with their witty comedy routines, while Lynnne Bresnahan ('12) wowed the audience

with a spectacular tap dance routine to "Supercalifragilisticexpialadocious," the classic song from Disney's Mary Poppins.

Musicians were among the majority of the talented acts displayed. Alex Ulsh ('12) rocked out on electric guitar for multiple acts (accompanied on bass by fellow freshman Mandie Robinson), and the band Control Alt Destroy included a pianist. Freshman Jalakoi Solomon sang a new song by upcoming Disney star Demi Lovato, while a few acts, like Rosalynn Wiedower ('12) and Kristin Kingsbury ('12), performed original songs.

The competition was judged by a pool of faculty members from a variety of departments, including Professors Clay Clemens and Angela Holt, who gave feedback at the end of each performance.

At the end of the evening, Sebastian Brock's ('11) yo-yo routine was the one act that stood out from the rest. Not even a guest performance from the Chick-fil-A cow could stand up to Mr. Brock's yo-yoing skills.

The talent competition was not the only event of the evening. There were also card games and raffles for assorted gift cards available in the back of the lodge.

Refreshments for the evening were provided by Chick-fil-A, who gave out cards for free chicken sandwiches after they ran out of food.



Melissa Gomez

Heated Competition: Alex Ulsh shows off her musical skills for So You Think You've Got Talent.

The Finer Side: The secrets to impressing your parents on Family Weekend

Listen closely – let me share the secrets of impressing your parents this family weekend! For the freshmen, it is quite possibly your first time away from home. For the rest of us, we're just trying to show our parents that yes indeed, their tuition dollars are going to a good cause and that we are becoming responsible adults -- so here are a few secrets that, if put to use, are sure to impress them.

1. Don't wear your pajamas to meet them. Show your parents that you actually own clothing, and that you have a better sense of style than when you were in high school. Let's face it, in the real world, adults don't wear their PJs (or sweats, or ripped t-shirts) when they walk in daylight.

2. Clean your room. It's what your mother always told you to do. Show her you were actually listening and that you don't live in a pile of filth. Besides, you might actually find that \$20 you thought you lost or that homework you were supposed to turn in!

3. Brush up on the table manners before they take you to dinner. In case you can't take a semester's worth of etiquette lessons in the next few days, here are a few easy and painless tips to survive dinners with the parents:

- Chew with your mouth closed. No one wants to see or hear your food.



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

Please, save everyone the embarrassment.

- Remember that you have a fork and knife for a reason. (Cut with the fork in the left hand, then transfer to the right when you eat. Repeat.)

- No slurping. Ever. This is one of the cardinal rules.

- If you get up from the table and are going to return, put your napkin on your chair. When you leave the table completely, then put your napkin on the table.

4. Tell them how wonderful your classes are – even if you have to stretch it just a little. I'm sure you will be able to find at least one positive thing about each class. Make your parents feel like all the money they're paying in tuition is actually worth it!

5. Don't ask for money – wait till they go home. Don't make your parents feel as though you only think of them as ATMs. If you need money, at least wait until they're no longer on the campus.

A nice final touch would be to send a pleasant handwritten letter home to thank your parents for coming and spending time with you. Make your parents feel welcome and have a wonderful weekend!

If you have questions or comments for Jennifer, e-mail her at business@vainformer.com!

WANTED: Students who want to make an IMPACT on campus
Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 223

Movie Review:
Coens’ newest work has audience laughing, then scratching their heads

Patrick Macaluso
Staff Writer

After the success of *No Country for Old Men*, the Coen brothers have released a new film – *Burn After Reading*. The trailers created a lot of buzz for the movie, so I was eager to see it. The film revolves around multiple intertwining storylines, each of which relates to the central character, Osbourne Cox, played by John Malkovich. Cox is a CIA agent with a drinking problem. He loses a disk containing his memoirs, which are subsequently held hostage. The Coens’ A-list cast includes Brad Pitt and Tilda Swinton, as well as Coen regulars Frances McDormand and George Clooney.

I have very mixed feelings about this film. I really enjoyed it when I saw it, but can’t explain exactly why. This flick, unlike the message-laden

Coen films *No Country* and *Fargo*, doesn’t really have any major themes. It lightly touches on the subjects of Internet dating, plastic surgery, and the dodgy nature of the CIA, but all of these are treated very lightheartedly. The film is a work of sheer absurdity, not in a negative way, but in a way that enhances its comic value. The film also makes very excessive use of dramatic irony to the point where the viewer can easily forget which characters know what – it was hard for me to keep up.

But in terms of ensemble acting, the Coen Brothers succeed in orchestrating a stellar cast. The standout, however, is easily John Malkovich. I have now noticed that Malkovich shares the same kind of comedic style as Joe Pesci; every time an obscenity comes out of his mouth, no matter the context, it is funny. I also enjoyed how the film poked fun at George Clooney (Clooney’s frequent tough lawyer persona was torn apart in this film) with a sexual apparatus that you have to see to believe.

The Coens’ excessive use of irony subtracted from the overall value and impact of the film. On top of this, *Burn After Reading* lacked a clear and strong message. Although it probably wasn’t intended to have such a message to begin with, by my standards this film cannot make my A list. I give this film a B.



Promotional Photo

A confusing Coens’ film: *Burn After Reading* has a stand-out cast, but the lack of a clear message detracts from the viewing experience.

Exceptional fries and ordinary burgers at Retro’s

Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

Retro’s Good Eats is a small, 1950s-imitation short-order restaurant that is located on Prince George Street next to Aromas. Every year they heavily advertise to students and offer numerous discounts, deals and coupons. Yet, for all their outreach, the hype has never matched cheap eateries like the Cheese Shop. I have always wondered why this is so, and decided to check them out to see if they are an overlooked treasure.

I went for lunch on a Monday afternoon, and although not crowded, Retro’s still had a decent number of guests, most of them tourists. I placed an order for a custard milkshake (\$3.75), regular fries (\$2.25) and hamburger (\$3.75). The food came out amazingly fast; I didn’t even have time to finish reading the main article in one of their complimentary issues of The Virginia Gazette.

The fries looked a little gross, but were absolutely delicious. They were simultaneously soft and crisp, and had their own unique flavor. Although I ordered a regular size (and not a large), the portion was exceptionally generous and could almost be a meal in itself. They may be the best French fries in

walking distance of Colonial Williamsburg. I highly recommend them.

I was disappointed by the hamburger. The size of the patty was small, which in retrospect should not have been surprising considering it cost just \$3.75. The hamburger bun had come straight out of the bag, and was completely untoasted and unseasoned. The hamburger itself wasn’t bad, but you can get a better burger at the Caf or UC, or even do it yourself with a George Foreman grill.

After the burger I was still hungry, so I placed an order for a hotdog (\$2.25). Like the hamburger, the hotdog was also small and came on an untoasted bun. It tasted just like a typical hotdog, again, no different from what I could make myself or get at the UC or the Caf, except that it may have been a little smaller.

Retro’s frequently mentions their custard in their advertisements. The custard milkshake was okay, but nothing great, and definitely not worth \$3.75.

With the exception of the French fries, Retro’s food was mediocre. It was not bad, but when there are high quality places for just a couple of dollars more with many more menu options, Retro’s isn’t worth it. The food was very cheap...but it is true that you get what you pay for.



Alec McKinley

Cheap prices, mediocre food: Retro’s Good Eats offers inexpensive prices and is close by for students, but the food is not exceptional.

Paradise built:

**Young Jeezy’s
*The Recession***

Jack Evans
Contributor

When I first heard Young Jeezy’s debut album, *Let’s Get It: Thug Motivation 101*, I was more than a couple kinds of drunk. I had just realized I neglected to do the reading for the morning class I had in six hours and, conscientious student that I am, I decided it’d be a good idea to get started. With “Soul Survivor” on repeat, I read the first two books of *Paradise Lost* and, right around the time when Lucifer regains consciousness after that long fall from grace, Jeezy was rapping “Tonight I can’t sleep, we livin’ in hell / First they give us the work than they throw us jail.” It was at that moment when I knew I loved Young Jeezy.

Two albums later, I still do. *The Recession*, his latest, is really great. In a year where major label rap albums have been either frustrating (Lil Wayne’s *Tha Carter III*) or just downright bad (Nas’ *Untitled*, *The Game’s L.A.X.*), I am glad it exists.

“Put On,” the lead single, is the undeniable highpoint. Lyrically, it’s one of the best things Jeezy has ever done. As usual, he’s rapping about driving around Atlanta and selling drugs, but this time he does it with some ridiculously inventive wordplay (“What’s harder than a napkin, whiter than a dinner plate?”, “Passenger’s a redbone / Her weave look like some curly fries”).

But what really makes the song is Kanye West. It is spine tingling. He hears throngs of Euro trash chanting his name, but all he can think of are those “n****s that owe [him] checks” and those “bitches that owe [him] sex.” While that sounds makes him sound like a complete jackass -- the T-Pain auto-tune certainly doesn’t help things -- we know that’s all a facade. The man is really a mess inside. His mother, “the only girl in the world that know[s him] best” is dead and he has just come to the crushing realization that “the top is so lonely.”

Kanye is one of only three guest rappers because *The Recession* is Young Jeezy’s album. On “Circulate,” our man just swaggers over a go-go inflected four-on-the-floor beat, informing us that America’s current economic situation has made it quite difficult for him to sell crack to his community. His rapping has improved by leaps and bounds and on this track he is wickedly self-deprecating (“Where...the rest at? / Looking at my watch like it’s a bad investment”). Play it while driving down the street and I guarantee you will feel a whole lot cooler than you actually are.

Beat-wise, practically all the other tracks on *The Recession* are solid examples of Jeezy’s fantastically overblown Goth-opera formula that I somehow never get tired of. “Welcome Back,” “Who Dat” and “Word Play” are also clear standouts. Even “Vacation,” a party track that in theory should suck, is quite tolerable. This is mostly because Jeezy affects this hilarious faux-Jamaican accent -- like a Sean Kingston parody. And of course, he is doing it over a beat that makes the prospect of taking a vacation seem truly horrifying. You see, even when he’s kicking back on the beach “sipping Belvedere,” Jeezy can’t shake the paranoia and the sense of inevitable tragedy.

Dig how in the video his character ends up getting caught by the Feds. Jeezy is simply incapable of making lighthearted club-rap. This is what I love about him.

Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary

Long-forgotten takeover of the Alumni House shrouded in mystery

Adriana Green
Contributor

It's fun to talk, to gossip, and to feel that tiny flame grow stronger on your tongue. It's fun to pass that spark along, leaving a string of dancing lights weaving throughout history. Traditions, legends, myths and mysteries begin this way just so, and William and Mary's past burns with such stories. The hardest part is finding the ashes of truth.

As a freshman, I've already heard so much about these myths. There's the Crim Dell Bridge, Peeping Tom, Lord Botetourt's foot and certain "frisky ghosts" inhabiting our campus. While quite entertaining, I had yet to hear of a single myth derived from absolute fact. Most stories left me with nothing but unsatisfied curiosity. It wasn't until my third week that I heard of a tale that had the taste of truth -- the mystery of the Alumni House.

During one of my innumerable club interest meetings, an upperclassman told me about the suspicion surrounding the Alumni House. He heard tales of a savage "commandeering" by Davis Y. Paschall, 22nd president of William and Mary. During President Paschall's tenure, the house (formerly known as the Bright House) was home to the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Paschal supposedly wanted the house so fiercely that he accused

the fraternity of communist activities and seized the grounds.

Upon discovering these tidbits of possibility I ventured into the archives of Swem. Initially, I found only a limited amount of information about the house's history involving Kappa Alpha. In *The Alumni House* by JT Baldwin, Jr., Mr. Herbert Ganter recollected that "in January 1925...Kappa Alpha took over the building as a fraternity house." This was 21 years before the College obtained legal title to the Bright House.

Another news article, which discussed the renovations being made to the Alumni House, unveiled the possibility of hidden tensions in the community. According to the article, the "costs of remodeling have been rumored 'excessive' and the subject of much discussion in Williamsburg." The actual date of the house's transition was nowhere to be found.

I grew puzzled; there was neither concrete proof of any misdoings nor any whisper of "communist accusations." I simply could not find anything that supported the College's involvement in a deviously-plotted coup until I discovered the book *Hark Upon the Gale* by Wilford Kale.

According to Mr. Kale, there was a great deal of turmoil at the college in the early 1960s, near the time of Pashcall's inauguration: "He was inaugurated October 13, 1961, but by that time the 'college's' structure was already coming

apart, being attacked by persons and groups from across the state, especially by the William and Mary alumni, who did not like their college treated on par with the newer colleges in Norfolk and Richmond."

The Alumni meeting of 1971 added more fuel to the flames. During the meeting a plaque was dedicated to President Paschall for "attaining the Bright House and Grounds for use by the Alumni." The minutes from the meeting also mentioned that the Alumni Medallion was granted to him in 1968 for the service.

It seems as though Davis Y. Paschall did indeed obtain the Bright House, but this move may have been a strategic one resulting more from external pressure than personal motives. I found no mention of communism, but I also found no reasons for Kappa Alpha's move. The only thing that is certain is that there are enough holes in the past to fuel the myth and enough questions to spark imaginations. Perhaps we should be thankful for those missing pieces. These tiny fires that pass from generation to generation are traditions themselves, and their re-tellings offer to teach a valuable lesson. We must never forget that at the end of every legend lie two possibilities: the possibility that it is false and the possibility that is simply truth fighting to stay aflame.

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October Schedule

Movies

Brideshead Revisited (PG-13)

Sun., Sept. 21-Wed., Oct. 1
6:30 and 9 p.m.

Mongol (R)

Sun., Sept. 28-Sun., Oct. 5
6:45 and 9 p.m.

Oct. 2-4 in screening room (35 seats)

Man on Wire (PG-13)

Sun., Oct. 5-Sun., Oct. 12
7 and 9 p.m.

Oct. 5-7, 9-11 screening room (35 seats)

Tell No One (Not rated)

Sun., Oct. 12-Sun., Oct. 19
6:30 and 8:45 p.m.

Oct. 12-18 screening room (35 seats)

My Winnipeg

Sun., Oct. 19-Sun., Oct. 26
7 and 8:45 p.m.

Oct. 19-25 screening room (35 seats)



“William and Mary: The best job market in America.”

Staff Editorial:

College should be more expeditious in choosing top leadership positions

Simultaneous retirements are hard for any organization to handle, and William and Mary has surely endured its share of administrative shakeups this year. The need to find a new vice president for student affairs, law school dean and provost, after having just found a permanent president, leave many wondering about the strength of the College's leadership. We believe that, rather than plodding through a number of year-long national searches, a more preferable course exists for these administrative selections. We understand the need for transparency in the process; however, we believe that its role should be emphasized only to the extent that the quality of applying candidates and the interests of the College are enhanced. The College's resources could be utilized in better ways than leaving them tied in multiple search committees. Dragging out these selection processes over a long period of time will continue to hurt the college from a financial, public image, and an efficiency standpoint. The importance of these

top administrative positions understandably creates a source of concern for everyone, particularly for those members of the College community who no longer interact with the functions of William and Mary on a regular basis -- the College's alumni. If the College truly wishes to continue improving alumni relations and outreach, then the present administration should consider taking steps to involve these individuals in the selection process as well.

With a few exceptions, alumni care a great deal more about the long-term health of the College than non-alumni.

We approve of the willingness to look outside the College's ranks for new blood. However, in looking outside of the College, it would be more useful to look to successful alumni for guidance and as part of the potential applicant pool. With a few exceptions, alumni care a great deal more about the long-term health of the College than non-alumni. To that end, the College's interests would be better served in filling these positions before the conclusion of the semester along with strong alumni input and preferably with alumni selections.

Anonymous speech is indispensable

Anonymity is a powerful thing. Operating under the guise of anonymity affords us tremendous freedom. Emboldened by anonymity, people will say things that they would never dream of normally saying. The Internet has demonstrated in a particularly horrific way the shape that anonymous detachment can take.



Braum Katz
Guest Columnist

Among its countless functions, the Internet has become something of a clearinghouse for anonymous filth. A quick trip to the comment section of YouTube illustrates that, under some circumstances, anonymity is a sanctuary for the bigoted and vindictive. In recent days, I have heard students suggest that anonymous speech is by its very nature an act of cowardice. To equate anonymous speech with ignoble cowardice, however, does a grave injustice to its historical value and importance.

In 1787, as the new American nation struggled to design a representative form of government, a set of anonymous pamphlets emerged that significantly altered the course of our history. Writing anonymously under the pseudonym “Publius,” James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay endeavored to persuade the American public that a strong federal system was necessary to sustain the newly independent nation. These anonymous papers, known to modern Americans as *The Federalist Papers*, were indispensable to the creation of our Constitution. One may ask, however, why Messrs. Madison, Hamilton and Jay, all tremendously famous at the time, would opt to publish these papers anonymously? Surely they had no need to fear any sort of reprisal for their words. On the contrary, putting their well-respected names on the papers would have lent them extra gravity. Instead, these three men chose to publish their articles anonymously so that the American people would assess the Federalist argument based on its merits, rather than on the celebrity of the authors.

As the example of the Federalist Paper illustrates, anonymous speech has provided men and woman throughout history with an extraordinarily powerful tool. Anonymous speech is one of the best devices an individual has in ensuring sure that his or her argument is judged based on its merits. At many moments in history, anonymous speech has not been an act of cowardice, but an act of intellectual honesty.

But what of cowardice? What are we to say of Thomas Paine, who, in 1775, fearing the long arm of King George III, published *Common Sense* anonymously? Was this an act of cowardice? Perhaps. But it was an act to which all free people are very much indebted. And what of the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case *Talley v. California*, who were fined for distributing anonymous literature protesting against employers who would not offer equal employment opportunity to minorities? Can we really call this cowardice? In that case, the Supreme Court noted that “anonymous pamphlets, leaflets, brochures and even books have played an important role in the progress of mankind,” ruling that the California ordinance forbidding anonymous literature was unconstitutional.

I do not mean in any way to equate the courageous writings of Hamilton, Paine and the civil rights activists with the anonymous trash found on the Web. However, before we engage in full-fledged condemnations of anonymous speech, we ought to consider its profoundly important function of in a free society. Like all forms of speech, there are some we cherish, and some we despise. Ultimately, the importance of ensuring that anonymous speech serves its indispensable function – facilitating dissent and providing a tool for intellectual honesty – far outweighs the discomfort we may have in cleaning up the filth on the Internet.

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SA babies the student body

With the release of the Student Assembly's finance investigation last week, students are again focused on the indiscretions of one former SA vice president. Although this report failed to discover anything of substance beyond that which was already established through earlier investigations, it causes concerns over the competency of the SA to again resurface -- and with good reason.



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

A number of proposals and bills from the SA Senate this past year did not actually reflect the best interests of students; rather, many of these acts only served to help delay adult decision making among students, all while wasting money that could have been spent more wisely. In the "real world" you would have to take the initiative to register yourself to vote. Moreover, registering another individual to vote would not be rewarded with ten dollars, as was the case last spring when the SA gave money to students for registering their peers. If you were lucky enough to be around then, you could have raked in some big bucks by registering your fellow students to vote, ironically funded through fees which you pay for anyway. In the "real world," civic and philanthropic activities are seen as a reflection of a genuine desire to give back. Yet, we see the SA -- along with the questionably non-partisan organization Rock the Vote -- attempting to hold the hands of students in registering them to vote in ever-present campus voter registration drives.

Another aspect of mature behavior is providing your own transportation to your place of voting. You either walk or drive yourself on election day. This past spring, the SA decided that the practice of providing limousine shuttles to the Stryker Building, the polling location closest to campus, was somehow a core function of student government. In fact, this action was, and is, very patronizing toward students -- it assumes that we need not only to be nudged, but indulged, in order to get ourselves some place within walking distance. Moreover, one wonders how the financing of limo services can possibly be "green," which I thought was all the rage on this campus.

Another aspect of adult behavior involves making your own minor purchases, such as purchasing a newspaper. The legislative agenda of the September 25 SA Senate meeting stands contrary to this common sense idea, though, and serves as yet another example of continued, justified frustrations with "our" student assembly. The Virginia Gazette Act was passed at this meeting and allocates \$700 from the SA's consolidated reserves for the purchase of 300 *Virginia Gazette* newspapers which will be distributed free to students over the next eight weeks. Drawing from a collection of unspent student funds to purchase newspapers is not a proper application of the trust we place in student government. Aside from also failing to be "green," as we are so sanctimoniously urged to be in our personal behavior on campus, this action is fundamentally wasteful. Dozens of copies of various student publications sit untouched each week, and there is no reason to assume that the situation will be different here. Moreover, the justification that students somehow need free access to off-campus publications in order to connect to the outside community, as the author of this bill asserts, does not hold weight. If the desire exists to make a genuine connection, then students must be a little proactive -- or they could just go to Swem and read a free copy of the *Gazette* located there.

It is unlikely that the SA will regain the respect of students if it continues to waste their money on silly activities. The SA could improve its standing by not implementing legislation which effectively babies the student body. One good way to do this would be to pass a bill which would give back some portion of students' money from consolidated reserves, which contains a little over \$200,000. It is unnecessary to note here how this would be of help to students' already thin wallets.

Blatant malfeasance by our student government has been evident as of late, but some actions brought forth under the auspices of benefiting the entire student body are actually quite egregious. Previous proposals at giving back money to students from consolidated reserves have unfortunately been shot down -- and I am not optimistic that the suggestions here will be heeded. However, to the extent that some interest in improving the tarnished student government exists, this action would be a good step. But to outside observers, though, recent examples continue to make the SA a mockery for its wasteful and indulgent inclinations.

Campus voter registrations underscore political, not civic, priorities

As almost everyone at the College knows, a major, national election is a little more than a month away. With the voter registration deadline approaching, various interest groups are scrambling all over campus to register as many students as they possibly can. It has become particularly popular of late to register William and Mary students as voters in the city of Williamsburg itself, and although voting is a civic responsibility, it seems illogical for students to vote in the city.



Eric Ames
Guest Columnist

Students have been given numerous reasons as to why they should vote in the city of Williamsburg. Among the most popular is the argument that because we are spending four years of our lives here, we should have some say in the city's management. While this may be true in the short term, policies enacted by municipal governments often have long-term consequences. Four years is not a particularly long time, and the issues that affect college students are usually parochial in nature, especially when compared to the broader issues affecting the general welfare of Williamsburg and the surrounding James City and York County areas. Thus, students are claiming the right to vote in a city whose long-term welfare will ultimately not be their direct concern.

Furthermore, there is no such thing as only being a little bit enfranchised; either you are denied the right to vote or you are not. Once non-resident students register to vote in local elections, that right will carry over to statewide

and national elections as well. Apparently, students from out of state and other parts of Virginia feel that it is their business to tell the people of Williamsburg who should represent them in Richmond, who should represent them on Capitol Hill, and who the governor should be. People who have absolutely no previous knowledge of the Williamsburg area or the commonwealth of Virginia feel themselves entitled to tell citizens of Williamsburg how to run their local and state governments.

Finally, there is one argument that I have heard used in attempting to get students to vote that should be rejected completely: students should vote in Virginia because it is a swing state. This sentiment expresses a completely cynical view of politics. The purpose of a presidential election, as outlined in the US Constitution, is not strictly to elect a president, but a slate of electors to represent that state when Congress formally counts the votes. In other words, the electoral system is designed to represent a state, not a political ideology or party. When we encourage students to vote simply because the practice fits political expediency at the time, we are doing a disservice to our nation's founding principles. When a vote is cast, it should be out of civic responsibility to one's home community, not to sway the tide of partisan politics.

Editor's Note: The views of Mr. Ames do not necessarily represent the views of *The Virginia Informer's* editorial board, nor any individual members of the board in particular.

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Point-Counterpoint | Election 2008

ENERGY

This is the second in a three-part Informer debate series in which students representing Republican presidential candidate John McCain and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama will argue why their candidate's position on each issue is the better one. Our topic this week is energy. This is a complex area which includes and informs the discussion of issues such as environmentalism and climate change, gas prices, America's dependence on foreign oil as well as the search for and institution of alternative sources of energy. Polls indicate that the energy debate is of top priority for voters. Which candidate has the better policy to get America on the road to energy independence and solvency?



Jake Reeder
Class of '09

The McCain-Palin ticket's confusion over energy and environmental policy is characteristic of the disorganization and lack of detailed policy comprehension that renders them completely unfit to serve as President and Vice President. Sen. McCain's energy policy is a bewildering mess of proposals and half-measures that seem to suggest that although he understands the threats posed by global climate change, soaring energy prices, and our dependence on foreign oil, he is unwilling to take the necessary steps to fix those problems.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden's energy policy provides specific, scientifically informed steps that will: save more oil than we currently import from the Middle East and Venezuela; create a federal mandate for renewable electricity; relieve high energy costs by providing a \$1000 energy dividend per family, funded by a tax on the record-high profits of oil companies; help American car manufacturers produce over one million plug-in hybrid cars by 2015; and finally invest \$150 billion over ten years to create five million new green jobs. On these issues, there is almost no comparison; I'll take Sen. Obama's sensible, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable proposals over Mr. McCain's "Drill here, drill now" idiocy any day.



Bill Corkery
Class of '11

There are two main differences in the candidates' views on the ways to achieve energy independence and environmental stability. The first major difference is that John McCain wants to immediately start construction on 45 new nuclear power plants which, besides creating 700,000 new jobs, will truly help us begin a path towards energy independence. While the word 'nuclear' tends to send a shiver down everyone's spine, the reality is that this technology produces huge amounts of power and extremely low amount of carbon dioxide. France, for example, derives over 75 percent of its power from

nuclear energy, is the largest net exporter of power in Europe, and gains around €3 billion a year from energy sales, while keeping CO2 emissions very low.

The second difference is the short-term alleviation of the high price of gas. John McCain wants offshore drilling to lower the price of gas for the working family. This is only an interim solution, but although we plan to use less gas in the future, we need more of it at the moment.

Sen. McCain's plan is two-fold. First, lower the price of gas right now and second, become energy independent by expanding solar, hydro, wind and especially nuclear energy sources. While Mr. McCain's plan differs only slightly from Mr. Obama's plan, those differences are important.

Corkery The reality is that all of these parts of Mr. Obama's energy plan added together have very little real substance, since they are only two short-term solutions: handing out \$1000 per family (which would cost the government massive amounts of money) to subsidize energy costs, and promising to 'save more oil from the Middle East'. Except for these unrealistic short-term plans, the rest of Mr. Obama's proposals are long-term plans that both Messrs. McCain and Obama share. To say that John McCain is unwilling to fix the problems facing the issues of energy and the environment is completely nonsensical. The American people have cried out for reforms in both aforementioned fields. If John McCain was somehow unwilling to see his proposed reforms carried out, he would have to either possess a personal hatred of the American people, or an irrational hatred of energy and the environment. Mr. McCain is willing to go one step further than Mr. Obama in proposing the building of new nuclear power plants, which has already proven to be a tried and true method of gaining energy independence.

Reeder I don't think John McCain hates America at all, I just think he's out of touch with the average American family and doesn't get the science and new technology that is going to solve the problem. Handing out those \$1000 tax breaks will cost a lot of money, money taken directly from the unheard-of profits of Big Oil. Whereas Obama wants to redistribute those profits to reduce the cost of energy and gas to American families, Mr. McCain wants to give Big Oil an additional \$4 billion on top of the \$19 billion in tax breaks they already have. In terms of conservation, our country simply cannot continue to use 24% of the world's oil while only having 3% of its oil reserves. Reducing our insatiable appetite for oil is the only way we can achieve energy independence, something that Barack Obama recognizes and John McCain inexplicably ignores.

The idea that Messrs. McCain and Obama are largely the same on energy and the environment is flatly wrong. Mr. Obama's plans reveal a deep, nuanced, and practical set of ideas about how to get us out of this mess; Mr. McCain's are simply sound-bite-level talking points.

Corkery It's not like John McCain is against conservation of oil. He has long supported CARE standards, which are mileage requirement that automobile manufacturers' cars must meet. Mr. McCain sees that the average American family has trouble with transportation cost now because of the high price of oil and wants to help solve the problem. The \$1000 tax break proposed by Mr. Obama is an impossibility. If the average American family is four people, and there are 300 million Americans, Mr. Obama's plan would cost the government (conservatively) \$65 billion dollars. By comparison, ExxonMobil made \$39.5 billion dollars in profit last year. The idea that the government would get that \$65 billion by taxing the oil companies is preposterous.

In sum, while Mr. Obama does have some interesting ideas, he is missing the main point of this issue. Right now Americans need relief from the rising gas prices and a gradual, economical release from our addiction to oil. In place of CO2 emitting energy sources, we need to start building new nuclear power plants, supplemented by hydro, solar, and wind power. If one studies Mr. McCain's proposals, it is obvious that not only does he have a long-term plan for energy independence and environmental stability, but he also has a short-term plan to relieve the American working families' pain at the pump.

Reeder This whole idea that Barack Obama is somehow opposed to nuclear power is just the latest in a string of distortions and lies that even Karl Rove said were getting out of hand. Mr. Obama's energy policy clearly states that he is in favor of building more nuclear power plants, provided we can find an acceptable place to store the fuel. He recognizes that while nuclear power has its benefits, it is a short- to medium-term solution at best, and relying on it just creates a different set of problems for future generations.

On the issue of high energy prices, Barack Obama's energy rebate will actually save American families money on gas and energy right now, unlike Mr. McCain's proposal. George Bush's own EPA found that expanding offshore drilling might lead to a reduction in gas prices of 3.5 cents in the year 2027. This is a completely useless step that won't save any money and will only continue our oil addiction. Far better is Mr. Obama's plan to eliminate oil imports from the Middle East and Venezuela within 10 years.

Corkery Let us be realistic here. There are about 143 million cars in America today. Mr. Obama wants to help create over one million new hybrid cars by 2015 and somehow at the same time eliminate all the oil we get from abroad (58% of the oil we use). Even ethanol cannot possibly hope to replace all that oil because of the sheer space we would have to devote to grow it. The numbers just don't add up. There is no way we could add one million new hybrid cars, use the 130 million cars that would still be running and somehow (while not increasing our own production) do away with over half of our oil intake.

Such a radical and abrupt change away from oil isn't possible and those who say otherwise are deluding themselves. Mr. McCain's plan rightly points out that what we need is more American oil from the Outer Continental Shelf and oil from federal lands, which account for an estimated 116.4 billion barrels of recoverable oil, enough to produce gasoline for 65 million cars and fuel oil for 3.2 million households for 60 years. Mr. McCain's plan is realistic: we need the oil now and as time goes by we will wean our way off it.

Reeder Just because something sounds difficult doesn't mean it's impossible. Mr. Obama believes in the ingenuity of the American people and our economy's ability to solve problems given sufficient motivation. Bill seems to be confusing Venezuela and the Middle East with all imported oil. In fact, the US imports more oil from Canada than it does Saudi Arabia, and more oil from Mexico than it does Venezuela. Of the top 15 countries that we import oil from, only three are in the Middle East: Saudi, Iraq and Kuwait. The goal of eliminating our imports from those countries is very realistic through Mr. Obama's proposals.

Second, just because oil is found here, doesn't mean it's sold here. John McCain seems unable to understand that oil is sold on a global market. Even if you accept these incredibly exaggerated claims about potential American reserves, it's still a small amount when spread around the entire world. Further, opening up federal lands to more off-shore drilling, especially when the oil companies already lease 68 million acres that they aren't drilling on, is simply not an effective solution.

All John McCain's plans reveal that he will create yet another Republican administration willing to distort scientific facts in the name of a broken political ideology. We've seen where that gets us over the past eight years; can we really afford another four years of the same?